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Letter dated 12 May 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Somalia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my letter dated 27 February 2008, addressed to the President of the Security Council. As stated in my letter, the Transitional Federal Government does not have the capacity to interdict the pirates or patrol and secure the waters off the coast of Somalia.

Recent incidents of hijacking in those waters have demonstrated all too clearly the grave threat that pirates and armed robbers pose to the safety of commercial maritime routes and to international navigation as a whole.

The Transitional Federal Government therefore calls upon States and regional organizations to take action, in cooperation with the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, to protect shipping involved in the transportation and delivery of humanitarian aid and United Nations-authorized activities.

The Transitional Federal Government further stresses that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia should be fully respected and calls upon States and interested organizations to provide technical assistance to Somalia.

In this regard, the Transitional Federal Government has granted a number of States authorization to enter Somali territorial seas in order to deal with these threats.

To facilitate and further augment international efforts substantially, the Transitional Federal Government strongly supports the adoption by the Security Council of a resolution under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations to authorize States cooperating with the Transitional Federal Government to enter Somalia's territorial sea and use all necessary means within the territorial sea to identify, deter, prevent and repress acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea.

The Transitional Federal Government urges the Security Council to act favourably and speedily on the draft resolution on piracy, of which the Transitional Federal Government supports the prompt adoption.

We would further wish to inform the distinguished members of the Security Council that Somalia has faced and continues to face major security challenges, including piracy, that pose a threat to international peace and security. The Security Council has been considering the situation in Somalia for some time, including the

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deployment of United Nations peacekeeping forces to take over from the African Union forces (AMISOM) that are deployed in Somalia.

In this connection, we strongly urge the Security Council to seriously consider the issue of United Nations peacekeeping forces in Somalia to prepare Somalia for transition to permanent governance that will pave way to democratic elections.

I would like to request that the present letter be circulated to the members of the Security Council as soon as possible.

(*Signed*) Elmi Ahmed **Duale**